

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the heading on page 1 before line 3 as follows:

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the heading on page 1 before line 5 as follows:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the heading on page 1 before line 21 as follows:

DISCUSSION OF THE BACKGROUND

Please insert the heading on page 2 before line 16 as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the heading on page 5 before line 34 as follows:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the heading on page 6 before line 6 as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 34, as follows:

Figure 2 shows part of a male tubular element 1a and a female tubular element 2a provided with respective threadings 3a and 4a. Reference numerals 5,7, 8,10 and 12 designate elements that were already described above with reference to Figure 1 and will not be described again. In contrast to Figure 1, the male thread root 13a extends continuously

parallel to the axis of the threadings facing the female thread crest 8. The stabbing flank of the male threading is in three portions, namely a portion 20 having substantially the same inclination as flanks 6 and 11 of Figure 1 and connecting via a rounded portion to root 13a, a portion 21 with the same inclination as portion 20, connecting via a rounded portion to the thread crest 12, and an intermediate portion 22 extending parallel to the axis and connecting to portions 20 and 21 via rounded portions. Similarly, the stabbing flank of the female threading comprises three portions, namely portions 24 and 25 with the same inclination as portions 20 and 21, located respectively facing them and connected via rounded portions to the thread crest 8 and to the thread root 7 respectively, and an axially extending intermediate portion 26 facing the portion 22 and connected to portions 24 and ~~25~~ via 25 via rounded portions. When the threadings 3a and 4a are made up one into the other to obtain radial interference, the radial loads are transferred via portions 22 and 26 of the stabbing flanks, which are radially distanced from the thread root 13a of the male threading and the envelope E of the male thread root, thus producing the effect described with reference to Figure 1.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 17, as follows:

The double rounded ~~portion~~ portions 32 + 33 ~~enables to~~ minimize stress concentrations at the foot of the load flank 10.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 37, as follows:

The set of rounded portions ~~[[36,]]~~ 37, 38, 39, 40 constitutes a kind of groove. The double rounded ~~portion~~ portions 39-40 ~~enables to~~ minimize the stress concentrations at the foot of the load flank 5.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 13, as follows:

The embodiment shown in figure 3 has a certain number of advantages:

a) the pre-stress generated by the threads bearing both on the load flanks and on the stabbing flanks ~~enables to reduce~~ reduces the geometrical stress concentration factor at the thread root;

b) bearing at the stabbing flanks 31, 36 ~~enables to ease~~ eases any possible axial abutment (shown in Figure 7) under axial compression and bending loads.

c) The angle of  $27^\circ$  with respect to the axis of the stabbing flanks 31, 36 (i. e. an angle of  $63^\circ$  with respect to the normal to the axis) can minimize the torque generated by axial bearing of said flanks with respect to that generated by radial interference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 31, as follows:

Further, too great an angle requires a substantial reduction in the tolerances on the thread width, which is detrimental to production costs for the threadings. Similarly, a sufficiently small angle ~~enables to produce~~ produces a certain flexibility in the thread crest, which ~~enables to distribute~~ distributes the load over the load flank better.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 9, as follows:

In the embodiment shown in Figure 4, elements 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c and 8c correspond to elements 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8 of Figure 1. The ~~[[the]]~~ ribs 14 are replaced by a boss 45 which extends between the foot of the male load flank 10 and the foot of the male stabbing flank 11 and which connects with the male thread root 13c.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 13, as follows:

In the embodiment shown in Figure 5, elements 1d, 2d, 3d and 4d correspond to elements 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Figure 1. A [[a]] boss 55 is connected on one side to the male load flank 5 and bears against it, and on the other side to the male thread root 13d.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 17, as follows:

In the embodiment shown in Figure 6, elements 3e, 4e and 65 correspond to elements 3d, 4d and 55 of Figure 5. A [[a]] rib 14e is pre- sent on the male thread root 13e and the female thread crest 8e has a recessed helix partially enveloping the rib 14e after making up the tubular elements 1e, 2e such that a radial clearance exists between the remaining portions of the female thread crest and the male thread root.